

of our economic policy and workers at the center of our country and at the center of our economy.

Let me illustrate. In the last 2 weeks—I know that Senator HASSAN, who is about to preside today, when she went back to New Hampshire during these 2 weeks, she was talking to families and workers, and Senator PETERS, who is presiding, from Michigan, did the same—what struck me is that we had four sort of Cabinet-level people from the Biden administration who came to Ohio during these couple of weeks. I was with three of them. With one of them, we couldn't work out schedules.

The head of the EPA was in Ohio. Do you know what he talked about? He talked about how we replace—Ohio, unfortunately, is No. 2 in the country in the number of contaminated pipes connecting main water lines going into people's homes, contaminated with lead. We are, because of the bipartisan infrastructure bill, going to replace those 600,000 pipes. We are going to replace them with U.S., Made-in-America iron and steel and other components, because in infrastructure, we passed the strongest—and Senator HASSAN was part of this and others. We passed the strongest “Buy America” provisions ever in American history. If you are going to spend American tax dollars, you are going to hire American workers to do that.

Administrator Regan of the EPA talked about what that means. It means thousands of jobs for pipefitters and other union trades people. It also means clean water going into moderate- and low-income families' homes in Appalachia and East Cleveland and everywhere in between. And that means healthier children.

Then the Secretary of the Department of Labor came. The Department of Labor Secretary with President Biden's predecessor was essentially a corporate lawyer. I would use the word—this might sound disrespectful, and I apologize ahead of time—a hack. Fundamentally, he was a guy who spent his career making, I assume, millions of dollars a year working for a prestigious law firm, busting unions, and always siding with employers and with big corporations against workers. That was the predecessor.

The Secretary of Labor under President Biden came out of Boston. He was a former laborer. He was a former union laborer. Make that contrast. Then I spent part of the time in Lakewood, a Cleveland suburb—in the city of Cleveland and in Lakewood—and then Fremont, OH, with the new Chair of the Export-Import Bank, talking about jobs, talking about workers, talking about getting help competing with the Chinese, with the Export-Import Bank, always with an emphasis on wages.

We know what has happened the last 50 years. I went to high school and walked the halls of Mansfield Senior High School and Johnny Appleseed

Junior High School with the sons and daughters of machinists who worked at Ohio Brass, of electrical workers who worked at Westinghouse, of auto-workers who worked at GM, of rubber workers who worked at Mansfield Tire, and with the sons and daughters of laborers and operating engineers, millwrights, carpenters, pipefitters, painters, and electricians—all making middle-class union wages that really built a decent economy for tens of thousands of families in my community.

I know what that meant, and then we saw corporate leaders: First they shut down production in places like Mansfield, my hometown, or Springfield or Toledo. They moved to Alabama or Tennessee or Arkansas—low wages, few unions, weak unemployment compensation, sort of inadequate unemployment workers' compensation programs for injured and unemployed workers.

But those wages weren't low enough. So these same corporate leaders went on a scavenger hunt to Mexico and China—all over the world—to try to find the cheapest labor possible.

And do you know what? Far too many Presidents and far too many people in this body helped them do that. That is why this President is so important and why this Senate is so important—that we can fight back.

We are seeing now that the whole idea of this administration is to begin to bring these jobs back home and treat these workers with respect and begin, again, to rebuild the middle class.

The last Cabinet Secretary to come in who I spent a full day with was in Chillicothe, OH, in southern Ohio. It is a small community hurt by globalization. There is a VA hospital. It is one of the oldest VA hospitals in the country. And these workers—there was a Commission started by President Trump that is slating the closure of the Chillicothe VA.

Today, Presiding Officer Senator HASSAN and I were in the Veterans' Committee asking about workers—with Senator TESTER presiding and Senator BOOZMAN, a good bipartisan team on Veterans' Affairs—what do we do to make sure these workers are whole, that we train workers, that they are not burning out by all the tension and the pressure and the anxiety they face now?

In sitting with Secretary Denis McDonough, the new Secretary of the VA, the Biden Secretary of the VA, it was a pleasure watching him interact with these workers, interacting with Jessica Fee, who is the union president, at Chillicothe, the American Federation of Government Employees. President Kelley, the international president, was there. Ms. Simon, his assistant, was there, listening to these workers, listening to what do we do to train enough LPNs, licensed practical nurses? What do we do to train enough nurses? What do we do to train enough physical therapists? And how do we

keep this hospital open? Because so many veterans care so deeply about this hospital.

So the last 2 weeks what motivates me in this job is my job really, in so many ways, is how do you speak for those who don't have a voice? How do you fight for those—it is always whom you fight for and what you fight against. I am not interested in opposing Senator MCCONNELL because he blocks a whole bunch of stuff that we care about. I am not interested in opposing him; I am interested in fighting against some of the things he does.

But I am interested in fighting for these workers at the VA. I am interested in fighting for these pipefitters who are going to lay these clean pipes without lead contamination, making these children in Appalachian Ohio, in East Cleveland, in East Columbus, OH—making them more whole. I am interested in helping these workers who DOL finally sides with instead of siding with corporate interest.

During these 2 weeks, I went to a Starbucks in Columbus, and these workers are trying to organize a union. They know that carrying a union card—carrying a union card means better wages; it means better benefits; it means more control over your work schedule. Of course, Starbucks is fighting the union, but finally we have a government that is helping these small businesses export more. And we have a government that is going to finally side with veterans and side with workers at VA hospitals.

The last 2 weeks is—and for me it has been a celebration, as Studs Terkel said in an introduction of a book called, “Christ in Concrete,” a book written in the late 1930s about an immigrant worker. It came out the same week as “Grapes of Wrath,” and, interestingly, it was chosen over “Grapes of Wrath” for the Book-of-the-Month Club, even though “Grapes of Wrath” had a little bit more staying power.

But Studs Terkel talked in his introduction about celebrating the uncelebrated, and that is really what we should be doing here. You celebrate those workers. It is not the corporations; it is not the President; it is not the big shots; it is really the workers who power this economy, the workers who make the VA work, the workers who will lay those pipes, the workers who are the small business people succeeding and competing with China in countries around the world, the workers at the VA.

That is what the last 2 weeks for me was about. It is why the honor of having this job and fighting for these workers gets me up every day.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a

period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of MR. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 144. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 145. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 146. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 147. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay. •

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES,

May 3, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

The nomination of Maia Duaine Robinson, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Office of Electricity), vice Bruce J. Walker, PN 1549, having been referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 10 ayes to 10 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

JOE MANCHIN III,
Chairman.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES,

May 3, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

S. 173, a bill to provide for the designation of certain wilderness areas, recreation management areas, and conservation areas in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes, having been referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the bill as follows—

On the question of reporting the bill favorably with the recommendation that the bill be passed, 10 ayes to 10 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the bill because of a tie vote and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

JOE MANCHIN III,
Chairman.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES,

May 3, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

S. 182, a bill to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, and for other purposes, having been referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the bill as follows—

On the question of reporting the bill favorably with the recommendation that the bill be passed, 10 ayes to 10 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the bill because of a tie vote and ask that this notice be printed in the Record pursuant to the resolution.

JOE MANCHIN III,
Chairman.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND NATURAL RESOURCES,

May 3, 2022.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

S. 455, a bill to designate and expand wilderness areas in Olympic National Forest in the State of Washington, land to designate certain rivers in Olympic National Forest and Olympic National Park as wild and scenic rivers, and for other purposes, having been referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the bill as follows—

On the question of reporting the bill favorably with the recommendation that the bill be passed, 10 ayes to 10 noes.

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the bill because of a tie vote and ask that this notice be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the resolution.

JOE MANCHIN III,
Chairman.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RACHEL FELDMAN

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Rachel for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Rachel is a native of California. She is a student at UC Berkeley, where she is studying political science and legal studies. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Rachel for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey. •

TRIBUTE TO PARKER HOLLINGSHEAD

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Parker for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well, as to the State of Wyoming.

Parker is a native of Idaho. She is a graduate of Corban University, where she studied political science. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Parker for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey. •

TRIBUTE TO MORGAN SPIRO

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Morgan for her hard work as an intern in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Morgan is a native of California. She is a student at the University of Wyoming, where she is studying communication. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Morgan for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with